

## Message Text

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ORIGIN L-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CU-04 PA-02 IO-13 USIA-15 MMO-04

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DRAFTED BY L/EB:PRTRIMBLE:LMS

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P 192224Z MAY 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 123420

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, NP

SUBJECT: AMERICAN BICENTENNIAL EVEREST EXPEDITION

1. EXPEDITION HAS RECEIVED CALCULATION OF REQUIRED EQUIPMENT FOR SHERPAS. HOWEVER, EXPEDITION ALARMED AT NUMBERS AND QUESTIONS NEED FOR MOST ADDITIONS TO BASIC GROUP OF 20. EXPEDITION IS SHIPPING FROM BOULDER TODAY AS MUCH FOOD AND EQUIPMENT AS COULD BE ASSEMBLED. IN ACQUIRING EQUIPMENT HAVE INCLUDED 35 SETS, INTENDED TO ACCOMMODATE 11 CLIMBERS (INCLUDING EXPEDITION DOCTOR), 20 SHERPAS AT CAMP 2 (INCLUDING ANG PHURBA) AND 4 SHERPAS AT BASE CAMP TO KEEP ICE FALL OPEN (INCLUDING PASANG KAME). ALTHOUGH UNDERSTAND NEED FOR COOK, DO NOT SEE WHY HE SHOULD BE EQUIPPED WITH SAME THINGS AS CLIMBERS. FOR EXAMPLE, COULD FURNISH ESSENTIAL ITEMS FROM LOCAL PURCHASES OR CLIMBERS PERSONAL GEAR DONATED TO EXPEDITION. THIS GEAR WOULD BE ADEQUATE BUT WOULD NOT OF COURSE BE IDENTICAL TO BASIC MOUNTAIN OUT-FITS PROCURED EXPRESSLY FOR EXPEDITION. ALSO BELIEVE CAN USE ONE COOK WHILE PARTY IS AT BASE CAMP, AND SAME COOK CAN GO TO CAMP 2 WHEN PARTY MOVES THERE. DOES PASANG REALLY HAVE TO HAVE U.S. EQUIPPED COOK AND COOK ASSISTANT?

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FINALLY, EXPEDITION WILL NOT REQUIRE MAIL RUNNERS SINCE

DO NOT EXPECT TO SEND OR RECEIVE MAIL. EXPEDITION HAD

ASSUMED THAT IF NEWSPAPER COVERS EXPEDITION IT COULD MAKE SEPARATE ARRANGEMENT TO RUN DISPATCHES TO NAMCHE, AND HOPEFULLY EQUIP RUNNERS LOCALLY IF NECESSARY TO EQUIP THEM AT ALL.

2. EXPEDITION REALIZES THAT COOK NECESSARY AND CERTAIN EXPANSION FROM BASIC PLANNING NUMBER OF 20 SHERPAS INEVITABLE, BUT EARNESTLY HOPES THAT SOME MEANS CAN BE FOUND TO RECONCILE SHERPA NEEDS AND EXPECTATIONS WITH EXISTING SHIPMENT OF 35 BASIC ITEMS (EXPEDITION DOES HAVE 40 OF A FEW THINGS, LIKE SLEEPING BAGS, BUT GENERALLY HAS PROCURED 35). LIST OF ITEMS SHIPPED WILL BE POUCHED AS SOON AS IT ARRIVES WASHINGTON.

3. SEA SHIPMENT WILL BE VIA MARESK LINE, SS ADRIENNE MARESK, TO BANGKOK. CHANDLER WORKING ON AIR FREIGHT BANGKOK TO KATHMANDU.

4. BECAUSE OF DOT REGULATION REQUIRING DELAY ISSUANCE LICENSE TRANSPORTATION OXYGEN, IT APPEARS THAT OXYGEN WILL HAVE TO BE SENT AIR FREIGHT. ALSO RADIOS AND EQUIPMENT WHICH COULD NOT BE ASSEMBLED IN BOULDER BY LAST WEEKEND WILL BE SENT BY AIR.

5. WOULD APPRECIATE LOCAL PURCHASE 800 WANDS. EXPEDITION WILL BRING FLORESCENT TAPE TO ATTACH.

6. HAS KEROSENE ARRIVED FROM U.K.?

7. EXPEDITION BUDGET NOW STANDS ESTIMATED AT DOLLARS 150,000.

8. PLEASE EXTEND CONGRATULATIONS U.K.-NEPALESE EXPEDITION ON BEHALF U.S. EXPEDITION. ROBINSON

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